Taking pictures at railway platform

471. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to allow to take pictures at a railway platform in the country as Civil Aviation Ministry is considering to liberalise to take photo/pictures at airports;

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Instructions already exist on the Railways for granting permission for still photography and film shooting in Railway premises on specific terms and conditions.

Contract to foreign companies for track maintenance

472. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether constracts have been given to any foreign company for maintaining railway tracks;

(b) if so, details of the sectors for which the contract has been given; and

(c) the reasons for awarding the contract to foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Connecting of cities and districts by train

473. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have plan to introduce more trains to connect its cities and districts in the near future; and